

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00341 180601Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 H-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 DODE-00 DRC-01 CEQ-02 EPA-04

/104 W

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R 180542Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USAEC GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0341

EA/ANP FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, AS

SUBJ: NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL IN AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 0317 (B) SYDNEY 0093

1. DESPITE MANY POSITIVE RESULTS OF CONGRESSMAN
HOSMER'S RECENT AUSTRALIA VISIT (REFTELS), UNDUE PRESS
ATTENTION AND CRITICAL COMMENT ON HIS USGGESTION THAT
AUSTRALIA MIGHT BE A GOOD SITE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL
HAS CREATED SOMETHING OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM.
HOSMER WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF AND MERELY RAISED
THE DISPOSAL IDEA WITHOUT SUGGESTING GOA SHOULD ACCEPT
IT. HOWEVER, THESE POINTS WERE LARGELY LOST ON LOCAL
PRESS AND PUBLIC, AND WE NOW FACE WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION
THAT USG IS PRESSING GOA TO DISPOSE OF OUR POTENTIALLY
LETHAL "NUCLEAR RUBBISH".

2. TO COUNTERACT SUCH AN ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION, EMBASSY
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WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND USAEC

GUIDANCE ON BRIEF STATEMENT CATEGORICALLY DENYING THAT USG IS ENDORSING OR PUSHING LOCAL DISPOSAL IDEA OFFICIALLY. DURING HOME LEAVE CONSULTATIONS LAST AUGUST, SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER MONTGOMERY WAS ASSURED BY DR. FRANK PITTMAN, USAEC DIRECTOR OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION, THAT COMMISSION HAS NEVER PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN OR ANTARCTIC DISPOSAL. DR. PITTMAN THEN EXPRESSED USAEC VIEW THAT US NUCLEAR WASTE PROBLEMS, SERIOUS AS THEY MAY BE, ARE MANAGEABLE AND NEED NOT INVOLVE AUSTRALIA. IT WOULD HELP US CONSIDERABLY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES.

3. LOCAL PRESS LIKELY TO QUESTION AMB. GREEN ON THIS TOPIC UPON HIS RETURN TO AUSTRALIA, NOW PLANNED FOR EARLY FEB. IT WOULD BE REASONABLE AND VERY USEFUL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFUSE THIS ISSUE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE PUBLIC STATEMENT RE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL IN AUSTRALIA.

HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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30 JUN 2005

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